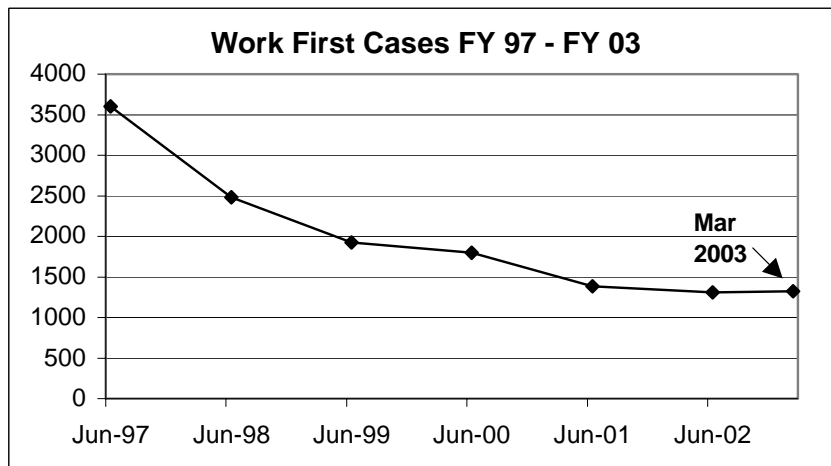


SOCIAL SERVICES-PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Outcomes: Reducing Family Poverty and Providing Economic Stability

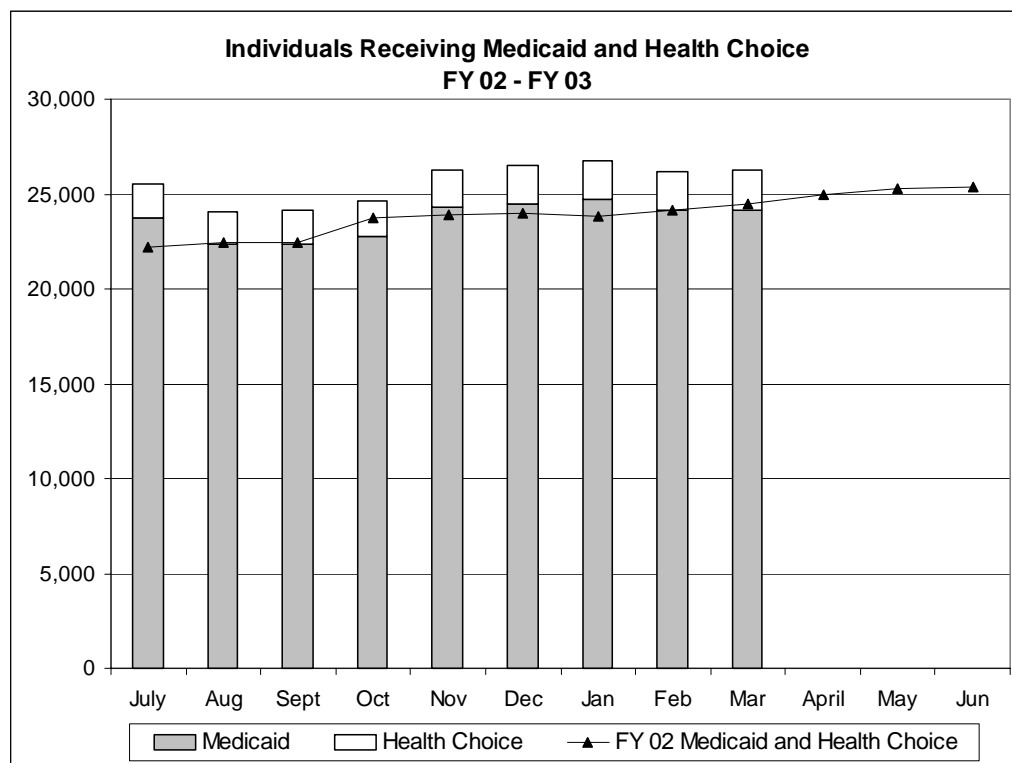
The Family Economic Independence and Family Economic Stability Divisions work closely to provide services to help families move from welfare dependence to economic independence. When a family cannot move to economic independence due to medical reasons or age, we work to provide basic “safety net” services through Medicaid and Food Stamps.



TANF Cash Assistance is projected to increase from \$4.9 million in FY03 to \$5.5 million in FY04 – the first increase since 1996.

The 2000 Census shows that 19.4% of Durham’s children live below the federal poverty level (18.6% in all of NC) and 12.4% of all individuals live below the poverty level (12.6% statewide). In a survey conducted by DSS in November, only 18% of DSS clients indicated that they have a checking account. More than \$6.1 million was unclaimed in Durham County in the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

Approximately 10% of Durham residents receive their health care coverage through Medicaid and NC Health Choice for Children. Approximately 40,000 Durham residents (20%) do not have any health care coverage.



Due to the General Assembly making reductions in reimbursement rates, the Medicaid budget is being significantly under-spent in FY 03. The Medicaid budget will not increase in FY04.